

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5468

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 1106

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: SF, PINS

SUB: UNREST RETURNS TO PENINSULA TOWNSHIPS

1. A WEEK AFTER BLACK STUDENTS THREATENED SHEBEEN QUEENS TO "CLOSE DOWN - OR ELSE" THEY WENT ON A TOUR OF DESTRUCTION ON MONDAY OCTOBER 11, TO GUGULETU AND NANGA SMASHING THE ILLEGAL LIQUOR SUPPLIES AND EMPTYING THOUSANDS OF LITRES OF LIQUOR INTO THE GUTTER IN A "CLEAN-UP OUR TOWNSHIPS" CAMPAIGN. A CROWD OF MAINLY SCHOOL CHILDREN ESTIMATED BY SOME TO BE APPROXIMATELY 3,000 RAIDED ALL KNOWN SHEBEENS OPERATED FROM SEMI-DETACHED TOWNSHIP HOUSING. ALTHOUGH LOCAL POLICE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS OF STONE-THROWING IN SOME TOWNSHIPS DURING THE RAIDS THEY TOOK NO SPECIFIC ACTION. ONE "CAPE TIMES" REPORTER ON THE SCENE REPORTED THAT RIOT SQUAD POLICE AND DOG-HANDLERS REMAINED AT DISTANCE FROM THE ACTION AND DID NOT INTERVENE.

2. DRINKERS WHO HAVE RELIED ON THESE ILLICIT LIQUOR SUPPLIES SINCE THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL LEGALLY APPROVED LIQUOR OUTLETS IN THE BLACK TOWNSHIPS DURING THE SEPTEMBER RIOTS WERE
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INFURIATED AND THE SHEBEEN OWNERS WERE FOR THE MOST PART

UNPREPARED FOR THE ACTION THAT TOOK PLACE. NO PERSONS WERE SERIOUSLY HURT BUT ALL OF THE SHEBEENS KNOWN TO THE YOUNGSTERS HAD THEIR LIQUOR SUPPLIES EITHER POURED INTO THE GUTTER OR SMASHED ON THE FRONT STEPS. MANY RESIDENTS INTERVIEWED WERE PLEASED BY THE ACTION AGAINST THE SHEBEENS WHICH WERE WIDELY DESCRIBED AS A "SCROUGE" TO THE BLACK MAN."

3. APPARENTLY AS A CONTINUATION OF SOME OF THE VIOLENCE AND STONE-THROWING OF THE DAY BEFORE A MAN WAS SHOT DEAD ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON OUTSIDE A PHILLIPI SERVICE STATION AS HE TRIED TO THROW A PETROL BOMB. AT LEAST FIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING A BANTU ADMINISTRATION AFFAIRS VAN, WERE SET AFIRE IN GUGULETU BY ROVING MOBS. MANY CARS WERE STONED INSIDE LANGA, NYANGA AND GUGULATU DURING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, AND A NUMBER OF BUSES HAD THEIR WINDOWS SMASHED. BUS SERVICE WAS LATER STOPPED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWNSHIPS TO AVOID FURTHER INCIDENTS. POLICE USED BATONS AND TEAR GAS LATER TO DISPERSE A CROWD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED SCHOOL CHILDREN MARCHING TOWARD ATHLONE AND MORE WERE REPORTEDLY EN ROUTE TO LANGA TOWNSHIP TO FINISH UP SHEBEENS. ABOUT A DOZEN OF THE SHEBEENS IN LANGA REPORTED RAIDED BY CHILDREN POURING THE STOCK INTO GUTTERS IN THE COURSE OF THE MORNING. SCHOOL CHILDREN ALSO MOUNTED ROAD BLOCKS AT THE ENTRANCES TO GUGULETU AND LANGE TO SEARCH CARS FOR LIQUOR. EXCEPT FOR A FEW INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE SKOLLY ELEMENT (HOODLUMS) MOST OF THE ACTIVITY IN THE TOWNSHIPS WAS DIRECTED AGAINST THE ILLICIT LIQUOR OUTLETS.

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